

October 18, 2012

Dear Governor,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Virginia State Health Commissioner in your administration. Under your leadership, we have made significant strides in furthering the mission of VDH- promoting and protecting the health of all Virginians.

In the five years I have served as Commissioner, I have taken great pride in the work, progress and accomplishments made in improving health in the Commonwealth. As the result of our efforts, we have achieved historic improvements in maternal child health indicators, more comprehensive responses to natural disasters, better provision and interpretation of health data into actionable information, and stronger relationships as a trusted partner for the public health and private health care community on local, state and federal levels. These are just a few of our many successes.

I personally committed to you when I accepted your appointment that I would lower abortion rates in our state by both the application of evidence based approaches and also the thoughtful implementation of abortion regulations if authorized to do so by the General Assembly and signed into law by yourself. I have honored those commitments on both accounts. I have worked to guarantee the process of survey and licensure would be fairly and thoughtfully applied across the Commonwealth. As of today, all twenty abortion facilities that are eligible for licensing have been inspected, where necessary, plans of correction were received and approved, and within the next few days all will be fully licensed for the coming year.

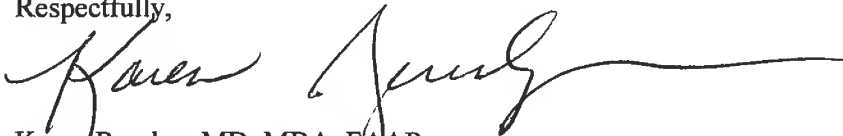
Unfortunately, how specific sections of the Virginia Code pertaining to the development and enforcement of these regulations have been and continue to be interpreted has created an environment in which my ability to fulfill my duties is compromised and in good faith I can no longer serve in my role. I have submitted my resignation from the position from State Health Commissioner effective today.

I continue to have a passion for public health and the future of health care in our commonwealth and will pursue opportunities to improve the health of all Virginians through different venues.

I will greatly and sincerely miss the VDH team of 4,000 colleagues who have inspired me and who work diligently every day to promote public health in the Commonwealth.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve Virginia.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Remley", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Karen Remley, MD, MBA, FAAP
Commissioner, Virginia Department of Health
109 Governor Street